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MASSACHUSETTS MAN SENTENCED TO 41 MONTHS FOR IDENTITY FRAUD

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and Inspector in Charge of the Boston Field Office of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service Peter Zegarac, announced that 34 year old John C. Clancy of Melrose, Massachusetts, was sentenced yesterday in U.S. District Court to 41 months in prison for Identity Fraud. Prior to his arrest on these federal charges, Clancy had a criminal record in Massachusetts which included more than 100 charges.

In January of this year, Clancy pleaded guilty to federal charges of stealing the identity of a deceased high school classmate and using it to engage in numerous fraud crimes in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and elsewhere. This case came to light when the New Hampton Police Department brought what appeared to be a simple bank fraud case to the attention of the United States Postal Inspection Service.

In May of 2002, Clancy moved his criminal enterprise to New Hampshire where he fraudulently obtained a New Hampshire driver's license in the name of a deceased high school classmate. He then used that license and the social security number of the deceased, to open a bank account at the Bristol, NH branch office of the Franklin Savings Bank. Through the use of mailing addresses in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, he filed fraudulent documents with the IRS relating to employment in the name of the deceased. He also used the name and social security number of the deceased to fraudulently open bank accounts at Citizens Bank, U.S. Trust, Cambridge Trust, South Trust Bank, Bank of America, Bank of New Hampshire, and Cambridgeport Bank. Additionally, he used the stolen identity to open credit card accounts at Filene's, The Bon Ton, AT&T, Sprint PCS, Cingular Wireless, Winchester Hospital, and North Shore Radiological Associates. The losses exceeded \$30,000.00. In addition to the prison sentence, Clancy was ordered to make full restitution to his victims.

After the hearing, U.S. Attorney Colantuono said, "The facts of this case, which include the defendant's callous use of a deceased classmate's identity are shocking to law abiding Americans. We will do everything possible to track down and prosecute criminals who abuse the system in this manner."

This case was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Arnold H. Huftalen.